

LIPSCOMB REPORT

1ST DISTRICT

WINTER 2018

Dear Friends,

The Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors adopted the 2019 Budget on a vote of 17 to 1. This near unanimous vote marked a much more collaborative budget process between the executive and legislative branches, and no vetoes were issued. Budget highlights are included in this edition of my newsletter.

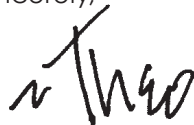
In his 2019 budget recommendations to the County Board, County Executive Chris Abele provided greater information, abandoned his \$60 wheel tax and paid parking proposals, and identified realistic savings within County departments. In other words, the Abele Administration largely embraced the County Board's balanced approach of preserving essential services for our citizens while finding reasonable ways to save money and close the budget gap.

I look forward to a new era of collaboration on Milwaukee County's biggest fiscal challenges, which will only get more serious with time. The structural deficit this year was originally projected at \$22.4 million and is expected to grow more than \$80 million by 2023. The State imposed limits on our revenue as they are currently set will undoubtedly plunge us into a real fiscal crisis in the near future.

Last spring the County Executive was in Madison seeking unilateral powers for his office. I called on Abele at the time to instead work alongside me to secure more resources and revenue options from the state. He recently agreed, and I am optimistic about our prospects for success in the coming year if we remain unified and build a coalition that moves past the consolidation of executive power. Together, with help from the state, I believe we can ensure a bright future for our County. See more details inside this newsletter.

It remains an honor to serve as your 1st District County Supervisor. I hope you and your family enjoy the holiday season.

Sincerely,



Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Chairman
Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors • County Supervisor, 1st District



Theodore Lipscomb, Sr. was sworn in by County Clerk George Christenson for the third time as Chairman of the Milwaukee County Board after having been re-elected by his fellow Supervisors. As Chairman, Lipscomb assigns Supervisors to standing committees, refers legislative items to committee, leads monthly board meetings, and manages the day-to-day operations of the County Board of Supervisors.



THEODORE LIPSCOMB, SR.

Milwaukee County
Board Chairman

County Supervisor,
1st District

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APPOINTMENTS

Southeastern Wisconsin Regional
Planning Commission

Wisconsin Counties Association
Board of Directors



Theodore Lipscomb, Sr. was sworn in for a 4th term to serve as the 1st District Milwaukee County Supervisor on April 16, 2018. He and his wife Nicole are pictured above at the County Board's organizational meeting where he signed his official certificate of election.



A Fair Deal for Milwaukee County

Chairman Theodore Lipscomb and County Executive Chris Abele signed the "Fair Deal for Milwaukee County" legislation after it was passed unanimously by the County Board.

It is time for a Fair Deal with the State of Wisconsin that properly funds mandated services, provides the tools to meet long-term obligations, and invests in essential quality of life services such as health and safety, transportation, and parks.

Even with no new programs or services, County expenditures grow an average of 2.3 percent annually while revenues only grow by 0.9 percent. The resulting structural deficit is nothing new and not the only challenge we face. Milwaukee County continues to cope with long-term liabilities, and hundreds of millions of dollars are needed to address the deferred maintenance needs of our County amenities.

Milwaukee County has managed to balance the budget while avoiding drastic cuts to services and even make some key investments over the years. Yet coming up with one-time fixes and stopgap measures grows more and more difficult each budget cycle. We simply need better, more sustainable options for our community to succeed.

The State of Wisconsin severely limits local authority to leverage revenue and does not provide adequate funding for the services it requires Milwaukee County to provide. The County property tax levy is capped by the State, and the County sales tax is limited to the current rate of 0.5 percent. The few local options available include an unpopular wheel tax and user fees for residents, but these options do not come close to providing the revenue needed for long-term solutions.

Chairman Lipscomb authored a measure that created a "Fair Deal for Milwaukee County Workgroup" aimed at establishing a more equitable state-county funding structure. Our County is the largest economic contributor fueling State growth. Milwaukee County tax revenue sent to the State of Wisconsin has increased by more than \$400 million, or 19 percent between 2009 and 2015. Despite this growth, shared revenue that the State releases back to Milwaukee County has decreased. County residents should benefit from their own economic success.

Chairman Lipscomb and Executive Abele will co-chair the "Fair Deal Workgroup," and have already begun to collaboratively work toward solutions. It is critically important to the future of Milwaukee County that this initiative continues to be a united effort.

As we look ahead toward securing a stable future, citizens are asked to join Chairman Lipscomb in seeking a Fair Deal with state leaders. Merely proposing viable, reasonable solutions will not be enough. A Fair Deal will require vigorous public support from the residents of Milwaukee County, and an alliance with citizens and leaders across Wisconsin who are living in communities with similar challenges.

1st District Town Hall Meetings



Chairman Lipscomb met with residents across the 1st District to discuss the Milwaukee County Budget.

The Milwaukee Winter Farmers Market

Chairman Lipscomb stopped by the Milwaukee Winter Farmers Market to talk to residents and offer information about their county government. Lipscomb successfully sponsored a measure that called for the return of the Milwaukee Winter Farmers Market to the Mitchell Park Domes for the 2018-19 season after the event was abruptly cancelled without explanation earlier this year.

The Milwaukee Winter Farmers Market is open from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturdays from November through March 2019 – NO market on December 29.

Learn more at: www.mcwfm.org

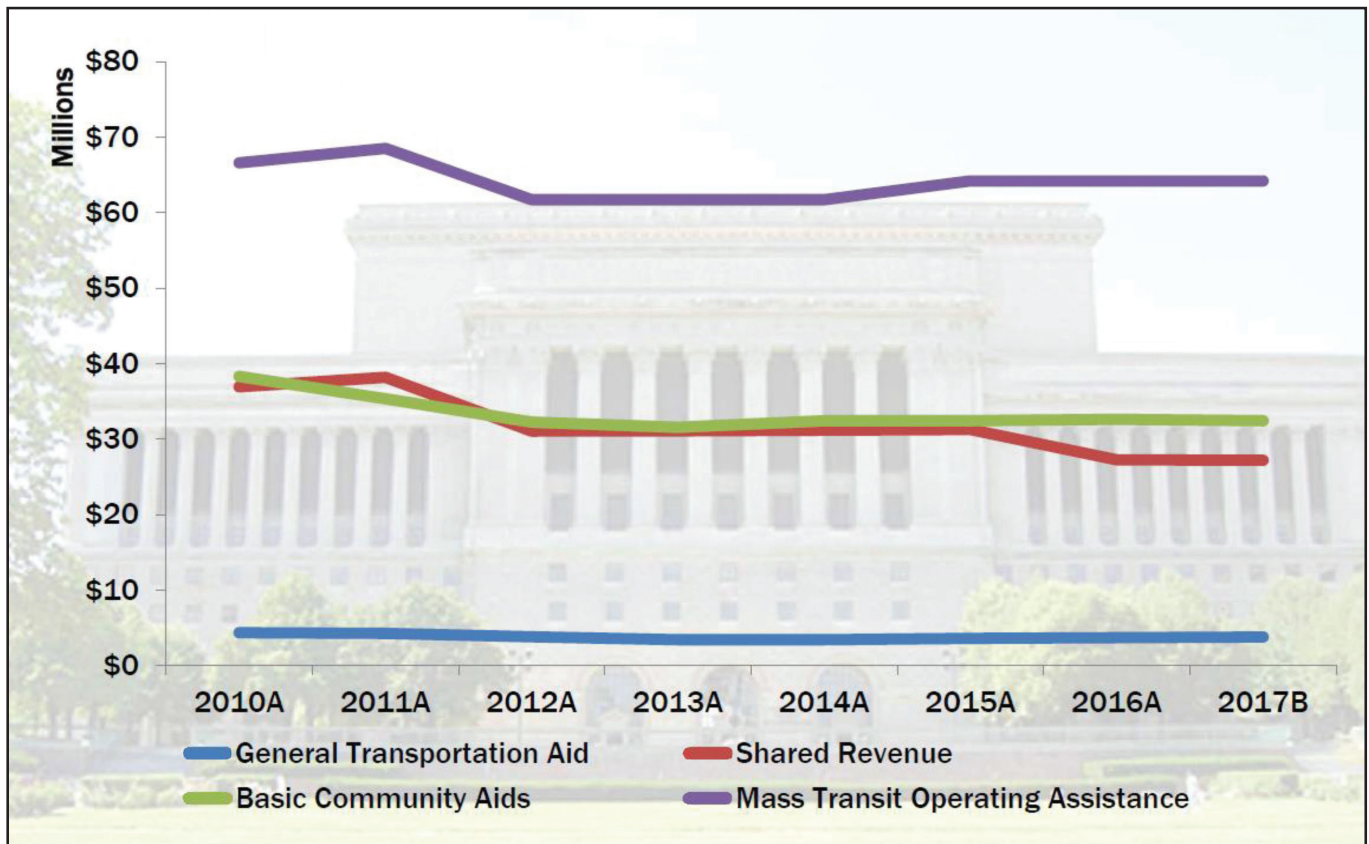


Chairman Lipscomb at the Wisconsin Policy Forum



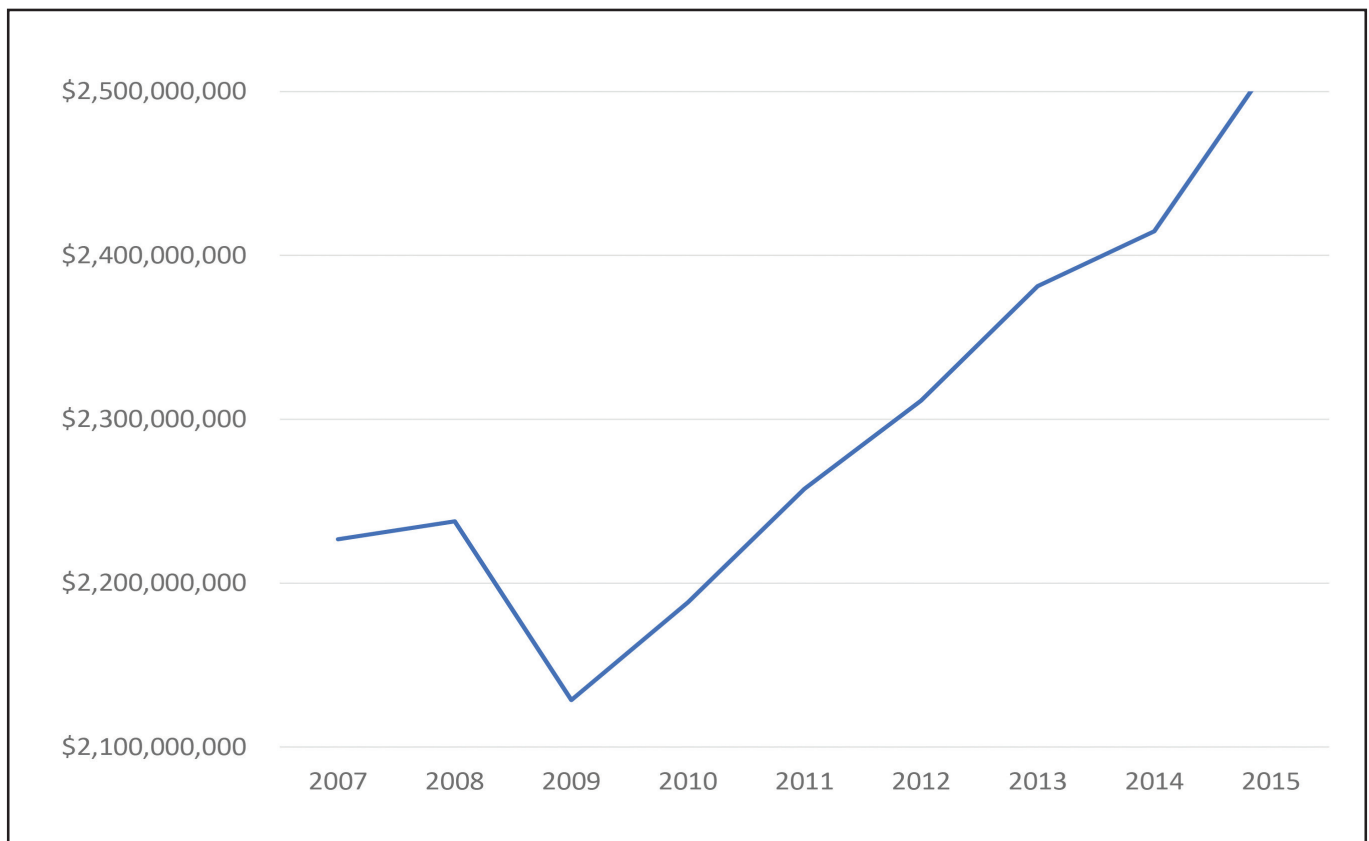
Chairman Theodore Lipscomb appeared as the guest speaker at the Wisconsin Policy Forum's board meeting in October to discuss the need for a Fair Deal.

State Aid Trends



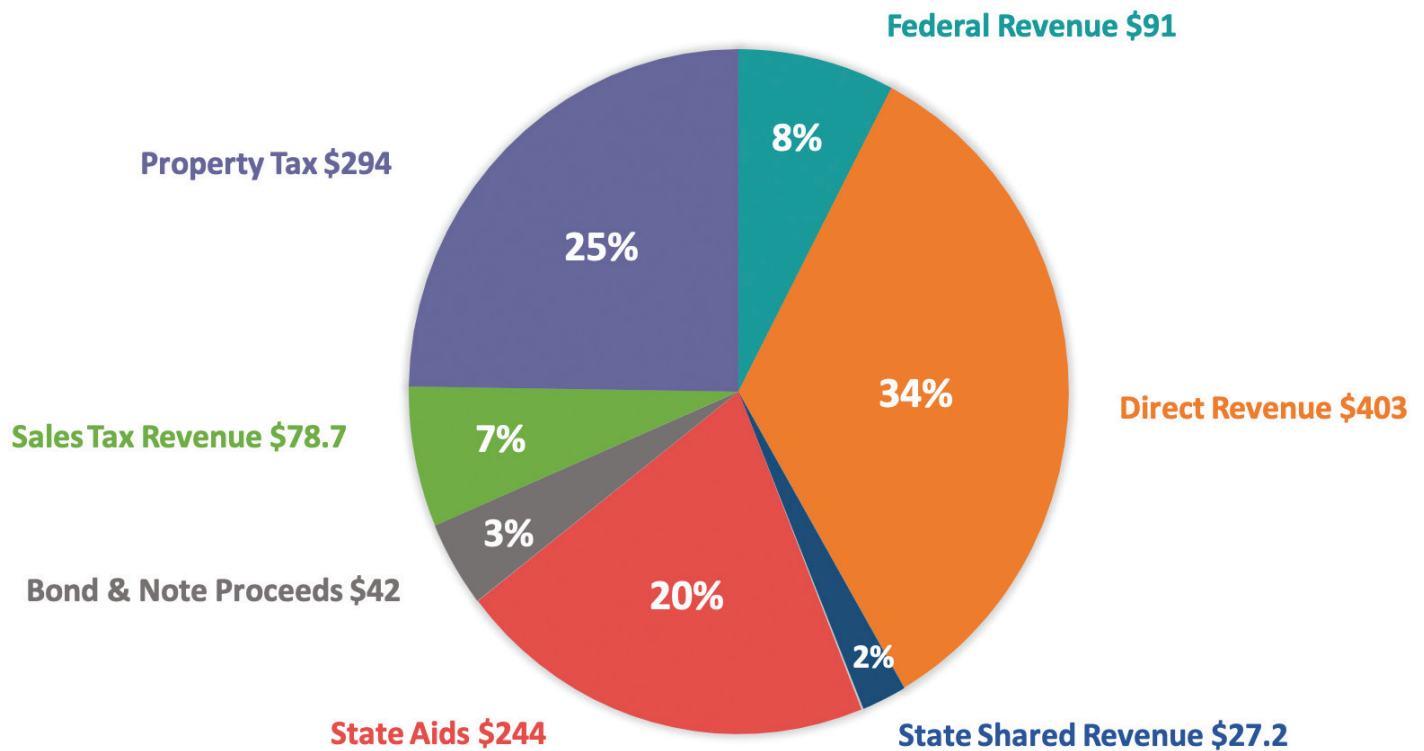
Source: Milwaukee County Department of Administrative Services, File # 18-24 September Report

Revenue to State from Milwaukee County

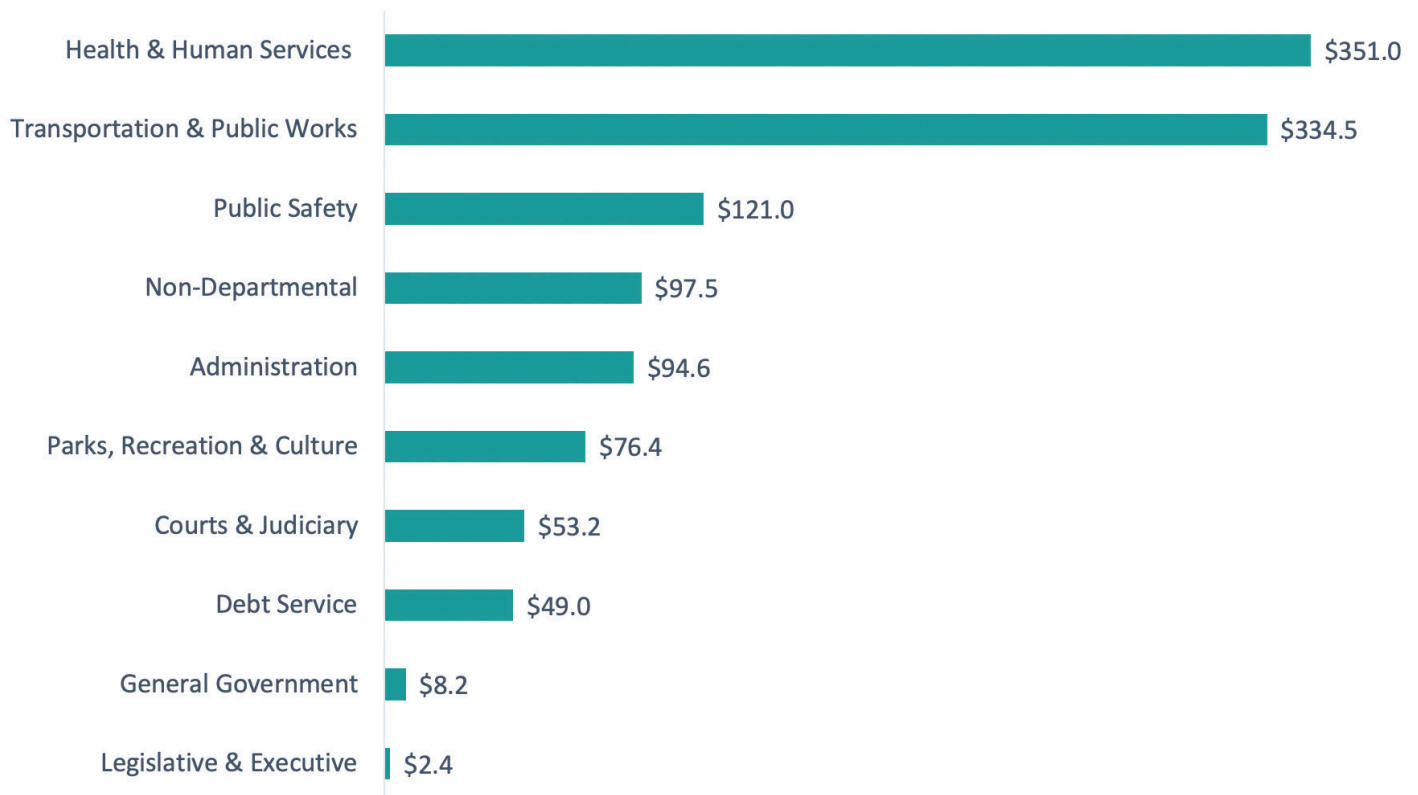


Source: Milwaukee County Department of Administrative Services, File # 18-24 September Report

2019 Countywide Revenues (In Millions)



2019 Countywide Expenditures (In Millions)



2019 BUDGET AMENDMENTS BY CHAIRMAN LIPSCOMB

JobLines Bus Routes



Chairman Lipscomb and six of his fellow board members are joined by community advocates to show support for the JobLines bus route.

Chairman Theodore Lipscomb, Sr. and Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic authored a budget amendment to ensure that hundreds of Milwaukee County workers will continue to access jobs with a modified JobLines bus route. The County Board adopted the proposal on a vote of 17 to 1.

The JobLines bus routes deliver thousands of workers to employers in Milwaukee and Waukesha County. The routes were originally financed by a court settlement that set aside more than \$13 million for public transportation to job sites after several advocacy groups successfully sued the State of Wisconsin over the lack of access to public transportation in 2012.

The Milwaukee County Transit System proposed modifying two other routes, 57 and 22, to cover some of the area served by the JobLines route, but not past the Waukesha County line. The proposal from Chairman Lipscomb and Supervisor Dimitrijevic extends the modified route into Waukesha in order to service 100% of riders and job sites through August of 2019.

With current funding running out soon, Lipscomb noted that this was an opportunity to continue the routes for a limited time, and that a long-term fix to finance the transit system is needed. The Chairman followed up on the amendment with calls to Waukesha County officials and plans to work with state leaders to find shared regional solutions.



Chairman Lipscomb speaks at a press conference in support of the JobLines bus route amendment.

Battery Electric Buses



Chairman Lipscomb authored an amendment to the 2019 Budget that would begin to modernize Milwaukee County's transit system by purchasing up to 15 battery electric buses and start a transition away from fossil fuels. The County Board unanimously adopted this amendment.

Battery electric buses are cleaner and quieter than traditional diesel buses, which is good for riders, other road users, and people who live along bus routes. Electric buses will cost Milwaukee County taxpayers less than diesel buses over their lifetime, and they avoid the unexpected costs associated with the volatility in pricing of diesel fuel.

In contrast to the more stable price of electricity, the fluctuation in diesel prices is expensive for Milwaukee County. A one penny increase in diesel prices over one year costs the county \$40,000 in added fuel costs. A one dollar increase costs the county \$4 million.

The first stage of the transition will include purchasing at least four buses and the necessary charging infrastructure. The earliest that the new battery electric buses could be in operation is 2021.

2019 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)



A total of \$31 million is budgeted in 2019 to complete the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project with \$7 million of that total cost coming from local County funding. The project is planned to run east-west from downtown Milwaukee to the Regional Medical Center. BRT offers faster and high frequency service by creating dedicated transit lanes and using transit signal priority. This cuts down on commute times and helps to mitigate traffic congestion. Visit www.eastwestbrt.com for more information.

Brown Deer Park Roadway Project



A balance of \$1 million remains in the 2019 Budget to complete the reconstruction of the roadway in Brown Deer Park. Chairman Lipscomb offered the amendment in the 2017 Budget that allocated funds to reconstruct and reconfigure a portion of the deteriorated circle drive in order to maintain the parkway's full loop and accommodate future driving range enhancements.

Milwaukee County Zoo



An amount of \$13.4 million is budgeted in 2019 for the construction of an underwater hippo exhibit at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Of that total amount, \$9.1 million was funded through private donations.

Milwaukee Public Museum and the Mitchell Park Domes



An amendment was passed by the County Board on a vote of 17 to 1 that creates a taskforce to explore Mitchell Park as a possible site for the Milwaukee Public Museum and offer ideas for a combined governing structure to manage the museum and the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory (the Domes). The intent is to identify opportunities for partnership that would preserve the mission of both entities and offer a new and improved cultural site for residents.

Lincoln Park Baseball Lighting



Approximately \$43,000 is allocated to plan and design a new exterior lighting system at the Henry Aaron Field Baseball Diamond in Lincoln Park. The project is expected to be complete in 2020.

Milwaukee County Parks



The County Executive included a new proposal in the recommended budget to allow camping in targeted areas within the Milwaukee County Parks system. The plan is estimated to generate \$50,000 in revenue and was adopted as part of the 2019 Budget. Camping locations will likely be identified at the end of this year.

Where Do Property Tax Dollars Go?



38¢

City of Milwaukee



34¢

Milwaukee Public Schools



18¢

Milwaukee County



6¢

Sewerage District



4¢

MATC

Source: City of Milwaukee Treasurer's Office 2018 Combined Property Tax Report. Note: This example is for illustration and the exact split varies by municipality.

Theodore LIPSCOMB



Milwaukee County Board Chairman
County Supervisor, 1st District

Milwaukee County Courthouse
901 N. 9th Street, RM 201
Milwaukee, WI 53233

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1ST DISTRICT E-NEWSLETTER SIGN-UP

To receive updates on Milwaukee County news and events in our community, sign up for my e-newsletter:
www.milwaukee.gov/Lipscomb



For legislative files, agendas, minutes and schedules for all Milwaukee County committee and board meetings, please visit the County Legislative Information Center at:
county.milwaukee.gov/CLIC



Join a Milwaukee County Parks Friends Group Near You

Chairman Theodore Lipscomb welcomes the newly formed Friends of Smith Park. This summer, with the encouragement of Chairman Lipscomb, a group of dedicated residents came together with the common interest of improving their neighborhood park. By September, the Friends of Smith Park were formalized. There are many friend groups throughout the Milwaukee County Park system that work to enhance our parks by hosting events, organizing clean-ups, raising funds for park enhancements, and more. Join a group near you today and be a friend to Milwaukee County Parks!

Doctors Park Friends
info@doctorspark.org

Friends of Kletzsch Park
friendskletzschpark@gmail.com

Friends of Smith Park
theodore.lipscomb@milwaukeecountywi.gov

Friends of Brown Deer Park
www.facebook.com/browndeerpark

Friends of Lincoln Park
lincolnparkinfo@gmail.com

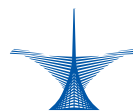
Chairman Lipscomb invites you to enjoy FREE Milwaukee County attractions!



Thank You Thursday
Free general admission to MPM on the first Thursday of every month.
Visit mpm.edu for more info.



Family FREE Days & Special Holidays
2019: 1/5, 2/2, 3/2, 10/5, 11/2, 12/7.
Thanksgiving, Christmas & New Year's Day.
Visit milwaukeezoo.org for more info.



MILWAUKEE ART MUSEUM
FREE for all visitors
the first Thursday of every month
Visit mam.org for more info.



FREE on Mondays from 9 a.m.-Noon for County residents
Excludes major holidays.
Visit milwaueedomes.org for more info.

VILLA TERRACE
DECORATIVE ARTS MUSEUM

FREE for all visitors the first Wednesday of every month
Visit villaterrace.org for more info.

Charles Allis
Art Museum

FREE for all visitors the first Wednesday of every month
Visit charlesallis.org for more info.